

## Faribault Energy Park, LLC

200 South Sixth Street, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612.349.6868  
612.349.6108 facsimile

October 30, 2003

Bill Storm  
Department of Administration  
Environmental Quality Board  
658 Cedar Street  
Room 300  
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Mr. Storm:

Subject: Response to City Planner Comments

On behalf of Faribault Energy Park, LLC, we have prepared additional information in response to the comments from Ms. Johnson.

### Zoning

The City of Faribault adopted a Comprehensive Plan in August 2003. The Faribault Energy Park (FEP) project is identified as appropriate for industrial development within the land use section of the plan. The preferred project site is zoned I-2 which is Heavy Industrial. This is the appropriate zoning designation for an electric power project such as FEP. The alternate site is zoned TUD (Transitional Urban Development), which is a holding zoning for annexed property that does not yet have a formalized development plan with the City. If the alternate site were to be selected, FEP would have to seek, and be awarded, a zoning variance from the City.

FEP has an agreement to purchase the land for the preferred site from the current owner. FEP and the current owner are in the process of finalizing their joint application for a preliminary and final plat for the preferred site and to submit it to the City in early November 2003.

### Location of Project to Faribault Airport

The closest point of the Faribault Airport to the planned location of the stack at the preferred site is approximately one mile.

**Water Wells**

FEP plans on developing groundwater from two on-site wells, generating sufficient water to supply cooling water for the facility. The discussion of this is included in Section 5 – Effects on the Natural Environment – Groundwater, located on page 5-15 of the Site Permit Application. The septic system is discussed in several sections, most explicitly in Section 2 – Project Description – Wastewater on page 2-5 of the Site Permit Application.

Water demands for the facility will not exceed 1.94 million gallons per day, instantaneous demand. FEP plans to apply for a groundwater appropriation permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDR) for this amount of withdrawal. Preliminary calculations indicate such sustained withdrawal will have minimal impact on nearby groundwater use. This has been confirmed in discussions with the MNDR. FEP will comply with all aspects of the groundwater appropriation permit.

Sanitary wastes will be managed by disposal in a permitted septic system at either the preferred or alternate sites.

**Wastewater Discharge**

The preferred and the alternate sites would have different process wastewater disposal strategies and plans for the discharge of warm water from the cooling towers. At the preferred site, process wastewater would be treated in an on-site wastewater treatment system and then discharged into a created wetlands for tertiary treatment and then outfall to the unnamed tributary of the Cannon River (the natural wetlands). At the alternate site, topographic considerations prevent the use of a created wetlands. Therefore, at the alternate site, the process wastewater would be treated onsite with a wastewater treatment system and then outfall into the unnamed tributary. FEP expects that there will not be any significant impact on the normal flowage in the unnamed tributary due to the siting of the facility at either the preferred or alternate locations.

FEP believes that the preferred site provides a key positive feature, namely, allowing the natural processes to “polish” treated cooling water and also being the feature aspect of an interpretive energy education center. The created wetlands will require the acquisition of an NPDES permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

**Access To Property**

FEP is engaged in an ongoing planning process with the City of Faribault to extend street and road access to the southern part of the preferred site. This street and road access would also continue northward past the preferred project site. The project will supply its own water and sewer services so access to these City-provided services is not necessary at this time.

One element of this ongoing process is the coordination between the City of Faribault and Rice County for the realigning of County Road 76 to be the road access to the preferred project site. On October 21, 2003 the Rice County Board of Commissioners agreed to the



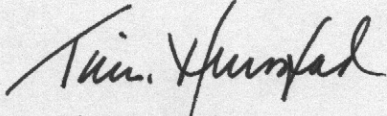
concept of realignment/redesignation. In addition, the City of Faribault has applied for a new grant program offered by the Minnesota Department of Economic Development that provides funding to help cities with infrastructure projects. The street and road access to the preferred site from the south is the only viable option for long-term access to the project. Obtaining access to the project site from the south will depend on the successful completion of the planning process with the City of Faribault.

Temporary site access would be provided from County Road 76 until the completion of the road and street access from the south.

We hope that this information meets your needs. Please contact me at (612) 349-6868 with any other questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

Faribault Energy Park, LLC



Tim Hunstad